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REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for her time during the telephone conference on Tuesday, July 22, 2003. The Applicants feel confident they can now very expeditiously address all of the Examiner's concerns.

On page 3, line 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner expressed concern about the terms "latest and greatest." The Applicants have amended the specification to refer only to the "latest."

On page 3, third paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner initially expressed concern about the term "version." However, this was discussed during the telephone conference, and the meaning of "version" was made clearer when the text on pages 14, line 4 through page 17, line 15 was read in conjunction with Figure 1. The Applicants appreciated the opportunity to clarify this point.

On page 3 of the Office Action, in the fourth paragraph, the Examiner expressed concern about the "calculating the difference..." The Applicants explained that such calculations are well known in the art, and a person skilled in the art could choose among several well-known ways to implement this common task.

On page 3 in the penultimate paragraph, the Examiner expressed concern about the terms "CP-3" and "CP-4". The specification has been amended throughout to make it conform to the drawings. Even though the Examiner did not mention the terms "CP-

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1", "CP-2", "CP-5" and "CP-6", these terms have also been changed throughout the specification to conform to the drawings.

On page 3 in the last paragraph, the Examiner expressed concern about the term "same purpose." The Applicants explained that the immediately following text on page 18 helps define what is meant by the "purpose". Again, the Applicants appreciate the opportunity to explain the same to the Examiner.

On page 4, first paragraph, the Examiner expressed concern about the term "flavors." The Applicants apologize for the informal nature of this sentence and have replaced the "flavor" with "variety" throughout the application.

On page 4, second paragraph, the Examiner expressed concern about the terms "user intervention." The Applicants explained that "user intervention" referred to the use of the entire configuration management system by the end user to accomplish their desired task.

On page 4 in paragraph 7, the Examiner expressed concern about the vagueness of the sentence, "a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner...". The Applicants' referring to Figure 1 explained that this language, while at first admittedly cumbersome, was correct and does precisely describe the relationships. Again, the Applicants appreciated the opportunity to address these concerns in the telephone conference.

In Figure 1, item 902 is the "pre-determined configuration item", and items 802, 702, 602, and 502 are the direct and indirect owners.

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On page 5, first paragraph, the Examiner again expressed concern about the "user intervention." This matter was addressed along with the general concern about "user intervention."

On page 5, paragraph 8, the Examiner expressed concern about the term "disposed." The Examiner is correct that "disposed of" can have the meaning of "discard, etc.". However, the Applicants chose "disposed" because of its alternate and transitive sense, which is:

"to put in place : set in readiness".

See the Merriam Webster dictionary definition of "dispose" copied below:

Main Entry: ¹**dis·pose** ◄

Pronunciation: di-'spOz

Function: *verb*

Inflected Form(s): **dis·posed**; **dis·pos·ing**

Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French *disposer*, from Latin *disponere* to arrange (perfect indicative *disposui*), from *dis-* + *ponere* to put – more at POSITION

Date: 14th century

transitive senses

1 : to give a tendency to : INCLINE <faulty diet *disposes* one to sickness>

2 a : to put in place : set in readiness : ARRANGE <*disposing* troops for withdrawal> b

obsolete : REGULATE c : BESTOW

intransitive senses

1 : to settle a matter finally

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2 obsolete : to come to terms

synonym see INCLINE

- dis·pos·er *noun*

- dispose of 1 : to place, distribute, or arrange especially in an orderly way **2 a** : to

transfer to the control of another <disposing of personal property to a total stranger> **b**

(1) : to get rid of <how to dispose of toxic waste> (2) : to deal with conclusively

<disposed of the matter efficiently>

The Applicants discussed the differences between the Parrish reference and the present invention. The Applicants focused upon one salient difference, which was their differing approach to sharing. The capability of the present invention to have a list of owners where the list can have multiple owners was also discussed. The beneficial consequences of such differences in sharing and such multiple owner lists were explained. Figure 9 was used to illustrate the sharing described by the present invention, as the figure shows objects that are shared by different versions of their owners, and also shows that these shared objects contain information that identifies all of the owners of these shared objects.

During the telephone conference, the Examiner also expressed concerns about the fact that the formal drawings did not include the key as it was shown in the originally filed informal drawings. The Applicants and their attorneys apologize for being unable, during the telephone conference, to find the references in the text. However, upon further inspection, the Applicants also examined and found in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section of the application, a complete textual description of the meaning of the lines, etc. as was described in the key. The Applicants believe that this is the

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most appropriate place for such explanation of drawing formats, etc. and request the Examiner's concurrence with the same.

The Applicants again thank the Examiner for her time in the telephone conference and believe that the above amendments and remarks address all of the concerns expressed by the Examiner in the Office Action and the additional concerns raised by the Examiner during the telephone conference.

Early notification of allowance would be much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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